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Senegal

Agricultural Situation

West Africa Agricultural Production Update

2008

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Report Highlights:
After an excellent rainy season across the Sahel and coastal areas of West Africa, the region is expected to register a significant increase in cereal production. At a food security and agricultural outlook conference recently held in Praia, Cape Verde, thirteen West African countries provided detailed reports of rainfall, crop development and production forecasts as well as updates on government and donor interventions. While rains were good to excellent across the region, many farmers lacked access to seeds and fertilizers. Post harvest losses are also expected to be significant for some crops due to the prolonged rainy season in some areas.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Semi-Annual Report
Dakar [SG1]
[SG]

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Executive Summary

Agricultural Production across West Africa is forecast to increase significantly in 2008/09. Cereal crop production in CILSS[1] member countries is forecast at 18.5 million tons against last year's final figure of 14.7 million tons. The data provided in this report reflects a summary of national data provided at the CILSS conference on food security and agricultural production held in Praia, Cape Verde Oct 6-10, 2008. Excellent rainfall, which was sufficient and well distributed throughout the region, was largely responsible for the increase in yields. Also, governments and donors responded to the food price inflation crisis by supporting farmers with grants and subsidies of seeds and fertilizers in many countries. Finally, high prices played an important role in encouraging farmers to increase area – if they had access to inputs. These figures will be updated in mid-November by CILSS members (some are suspiciously high). Nonetheless, the region appears to have responded quite positively to high world prices for key staples, and benefited from excellent weather conditions to produce a significant increase over the previous year. According to data submitted for West Africa, total cereal production in the region should reach approximately 56 million tons.

Despite the positive outlook, there are numerous factors that will limit gains in agricultural production. Some of the production data is quite optimistic given that in many production areas across the region farmers had late and limited access to seeds and fertilizers. Use of certified seed remains quite limited, which contributes to perpetual low yields. There is also expected to be significant post-harvest losses in some countries – in some cases due to the longer and more abundant rains. For example, the use of short cycle seed varieties in Senegal may cause post-harvest loss, especially on niebe beans and peanuts. Large vulnerable groups remain across the region – in both urban and rural areas - as food prices for imported staples remain high. The Sahelian and West African nutritional situation is still characterized by quite worrying trends, which require improving access of diversified food commodities to vulnerable populations.

After the dramatic increase in the imported price of rice in late 2007 and first half of 2008, the domestic prices of local cereals also rose dramatically. Domestic cereal prices increased well above the five year average due to substitution effects, national export bans, and the annual beginning of the hungry season in advance of the rainy season. In Senegal, prices rose most dramatically due to local cereal crop shortfalls and a cereal export ban in neighboring Mali. In Senegal – which has the advantage of a port not shared by many land-locked countries in the Sahel, the price of local cereals and imported rice remains significantly higher than land-locked countries that produce a larger share of their cereal needs. After reaching highs in August of 2008, local cereal prices have eased somewhat in advance of the harvest. Cereal prices currently range between 150 and 225 CFA/kg[2] while imported rice prices are in the range of 400 to 450 CFA compared to a five year average of about 300 CFA/kg in many key markets. The impact of increased agricultural production on trade in rice and wheat is expected to be marginal over the course of the next year. Most of the production increase – especially in the case of local cereals such as millet and sorghum – will be consumed in rural areas. Any surplus will be stored in households for the next hungry season. Only a fraction of locally produced rice makes it to urban markets, which are expected to remain reliant on imports. Trade should slow in the last quarter of 2008, and then resume in early 2009 in advance of the next hungry season. Despite the combination of high world prices, the world financial crisis and increased local production, imports of rice and wheat are not expected to slip more than five percent.

A regional rice report, based on updated CILSS estimates will be submitted in mid-November.

[1] Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel members include Mauritania, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad.
[2] On Oct 16, 1 USD=480 CFA.

Senegal

Senegal endured two consecutive poor rainy seasons in 2006/07 and 2007/08 which made it one of the countries hardest hit by the food inflation crisis in early 2008 and the annual *soudure*, or 'hungry season' which extends from April to October each year. To help consumers endure the crisis, Senegal waived all rice import taxes and set a price ceiling for rice. In effect, the government subsidized the consumer price of rice from June through August. This program was discontinued in early August due to budgetary constraints. In early October the government also reestablished the import duty on rice. The government also distributed 25,000 MT of rice during this period. The Government of Senegal (GOS) responded to production shortfalls by announcing a national campaign to increase agricultural production called GOANA. The government provided limited seed and fertilizer subsidies to targeted farmers under this program. FAO also provided seeds and fertilizers to some of the most vulnerable farmers. While these programs only accounted for a small percentage of planted area, the GOS is reporting that area increased nearly 50 percent and total cereal production has increased nearly 125 percent. Peanut production is also forecast to increase over 100 percent.

Senegal Production Table

Senegal	2007/08		2008/09		% Change (prod year to year)
Commodity	**Area (ha)**	**Production (tons)**	**Area (ha)**	**Production (tons)**	
Millet	686,892	318,822	943,403	600,634	+88
Sorghum	155,919	100,704	210,882	188,414	+87
Rice	80,312	193,379	115,097	368,127	+90
Corn	143,769	158,266	227,741	453,678	+187
Fonio	1,984	1,068	2,154	1,503	+41
Total Cereals	**1,068,876**	**772,239**	**1,498,477**	**1,731,291**	**+124**
Other Crops					
Peanuts (for oil)	607,195	331,195	765,689	710,424	+115

Source: Direction de l'Analyse et des Prévisions Statistiques (DAPS/DRDR/DSDIA)

If realized, the dramatic increase in food and cash crop production will be a major step forward into alleviating Senegal's overwhelming import dependence and food security concerns. It would also be a major boost to rural income, which has suffered an extreme erosion of capital as farmers liquidated crops, seeds and livestock during the recent hungry season. The high cost of imported food has placed a significant burden on these rural areas. Meanwhile, significant doubts remain as to whether Senegal has indeed produced this large of a crop. During the planting season there were shortages of certified seed, as well as concerns that farmers were selling or consuming their own seed stocks. Many farmers had no access to subsidized seeds or fertilizers, and their high price, and lack of availability in some cases raise serious doubts as to whether a 50 percent increase in area could be achieved. Fertilizer prices have increased more than food prices throughout the region. Despite excellent rains throughout the campaign, many observers question whether or not there was enough seed to cover the area announced by the government. There are also concerns that there will be significant post-harvest losses. For example, the use of short-cycle peanut and niebe bean seeds resulted in the harvest of these crops will rains were still continuing. Although more pasture and longer grazing period are expected this year, it is reported that animal mortality could be significant especially in the north due to lack of vaccines and veterinary tools.

Mali

Mali had a relatively good production campaign in 2007/08, producing nearly 4 million tons of grain. To achieve this level of cereal production, many producers have shifted away from cotton over the past several years. Above-average rainfall in 2008 has resulted in a sizeable increase in production again as the Government of Mali forecasts 2008/09 production at 4.3 million tons.

In response to the food price inflation crisis, Mali introduced an initiative to grow 1.6 million tons of paddy rice through the provision of inputs including improved seeds, and technical support. As a result, Mali's rice production is forecast to increase 250,000 tons to reach 1.3 million tons. During the lean season Mali waived duties on rice imports and also implemented an export ban on all cereals. This policy, although condemned by neighboring countries, regional economic organizations and donors, was effective in controlling domestic cereal prices which subsequently became much more volatile in neighboring Mauritania and Senegal.

For the 2008 production season, high fertilizer prices was a constraint for use in other non-subsidized crops such as millet, sorghum and corn. Improved rice seed only covered about 30 percent of the rice area, and fertilizer was only available for about 50 percent of all cereal crops.

Mali Production Table

Mali	2007/08		2008/09		% Change (prod year to year)
Commodity	**Area (ha)**	**Production (tons)**	**Area (ha)**	**Production (tons)**	
Millet	1,586,278	1,175,107	1,833,563	1,325,115	+12.8
Sorghum	1,090,244	900,791	1,016,254	953,043	+5.8
Rice (paddy)	391,869	1,082,384	610,852	1,332,892	+23.1
Corn	409,916	689,918	378,344	640,158	-7.2
Fonio	46,477	28,692	69,908	42,713	+49
Wheat	3,430	8,585	-	-	-
Total Cereals	**3,528,213**	**3,885,477**	**3,908,921**	**4,293,921**	**+10.5**
Other Crops					
Peanuts	-	-	355,224	NA	-

Source: *Cellule de Planification et de Statistique, Direction Nationale de l'Agriculture*, Ministry of Agriculture. Estimates in the above table assume a normal conclusion to the rainy season and production campaign.

Burkina Faso

Like other countries in the region, Burkina Faso benefited from good rains that were well distributed. In 2008/09 Burkina farmers are forecast to have planted 3.4 million hectares of cereal to reach a total of 3.9 million tons cereal production. Of this total, the forecast increase in rice production is most dramatic – up over 133 percent to 160,000 tons. Production of corn, which is also an important staple and cash crop for many farmers is forecast to increase dramatically.

Going into the production season Burkina was also suffering from high food price inflation – perhaps more so because the country is land-locked and Mali had instituted a cereal export ban. Despite a relatively good cereal balance sheet in 2007/08, Burkina Faso faced cereal deficits in 15 of its 45 provinces, and subsequently was hard hit by the food crisis – if you recall Burkina Faso was one of the first countries to experience violent protests over food inflation in early 2008. As a result of the fragile food security situation, the government subsidized consumer prices, suspended the VAT on staple imports, and limited the margins on key commodities and fixed prices of many goods, and like Mali imposed a ban on the exports of grains. The government established security stocks of 3,000 tons for the most vulnerable who could purchase cereals at subsidized prices. Further, the government provided a 50 percent subsidy of inputs, grants of improved seeds for targeted farmers. FAO also had a seed and input distribution program in Burkina Faso.

Burkina Faso Production Table

Burkina Faso	2007/08		2008/09		% Change (prod year to year)
Commodity	Area (ha)	Production (tons)	Area (ha)	Production (tons)	
Millet	-	966,016	1,200,945	1,170,290	+21
Sorghum	-	1,507,162	1,619,466	1,595,489	+5.8
Rice	-	68,916	56,708	160,543	+133
Corn	-	669,314	520,715	958,004	+79
Fonio	-	12,843	14,134	8,984	-30
Total Cereals	-	**3,323,148**	**3,411,968**	**3,869,378**	**+26**

Source: DGPSA/MAHRH

Niger

Niger, a land-locked country in the Sahel, is one of the poorest countries in the world, and extremely vulnerable to food insecurity. Partly due to this insecurity, Niger benefits from an excellent monitoring and research network made up of the Niger government, donors, FEWS Net and the CILSS institution AGRHYMET. Niger is predominantly desert with limited arable land resources, yet produces some of the largest cereal crops in the Sahel, seemingly against all odds. Niger also shares a border with Nigeria where incomes (and food prices) are much higher – and therefore a promising outlet to export food even when it is in shortage domestically. Against these constraints, Niger was also severely impacted by the food inflation crisis, as imported rice and some wheat completes Niger's cereal balance. Like most countries in the region, Niger suspended rice import duties and also established cereal banks to distribute food to the most vulnerable. USAID and USDA have a number of food aid programs in Niger.

Niger experienced a relatively good cereal crop in 2007/08 and the preliminary forecast for 2008/09 is even better. Most rain posts throughout the production areas have measured a surplus compared to 35 year average, and the crop quality and yields are much improved compared to recent years. Niger reported that yields are up by 20 percent in many production areas. In the table below the lower and upper ranges of production are presented – the crop will ultimately depend on the conclusion of the rainy season through September and into early October. Based on rainfall data and early yield results the final figures are likely to fall towards the upper range.

Niger Production Table

Niger	2007/08	2008/09	
Commodity	**Production (tons)**	**Lower Production Range (set equal to 2007/08)**	**Upper Production Range**
Millet and Sorghum	3,757,151	3,757,151	4,962,584
Rice	70,000	70,000	100,000
Wheat	8,500	8,500	9,000
Corn	19,324	19,324	27,856
Fonio	1,837	1,837	3,548
Total Cereals	3,856,812	3,856,812	5,102,988
Other Crops			
Peanuts	Production range estimate is 147,676 to 192,530 metric tons		

Source: Ministère du Développement Agricole/ Direction des Statistiques

Mauritania

Mauritania, like Senegal, has one of the highest import-dependency rates for cereal as it imports more than twice its local production. Mauritania was also equally affected by Mali's cereal ban during the second quarter of 2008. High food price inflation only exacerbated the food insecurity situation in Mauritania, where over half a million people face food insecurity (30% of rural households). To help counter soaring prices the government of Mauritania made 7,700 tons of cereal available for village level food security stocks (free distribution) and made another 17,500 tons available at a subsidized price. Mauritania also provided about 5,500 tons for a rural and urban Food for Work programs. WFP distributed about 40,000 tons of food including a school feeding program.

Mauritania has about 240,000 ha of rain-fed arable land and 30,000 hectares of irrigated land, of which 5,000 ha can be used in the off-season. This cultivated area covers about one-third of the country's food needs. All cereals are grown along the Senegal River in southern Mauritania. Rains began early in Mauritania and have been good throughout the season. Perhaps equally important as cereal production is the availability of pasture for Mauritania's large livestock population. The abundant rains should provide significantly more fodder in 2008/09 than was available last year. Meat consumption is extremely important in Mauritania due to the lack of arable land.

Mauritania Production Table

Mauritania	2007/08		2008/09		% Change (prod year to year)
Commodity	Area (ha)	Production (tons)	Area (ha)	Production (tons)	
Millet	15,824	1,601	10,881	4,941	
Sorghum	182,980	79,153	192,120	97,147	
Rice (Paddy)	16,540	73,450	30,000	130,855	
Corn	23,843	16,966	23,732	16,782	
Total Cereals	239,187	171,170	256,733	231,895	+35.5

Source: Minister of Rural Development. Note: Millet, sorghum and corn production for 2007/08 are reported as net (refined) production.

Benin

Benin is a costal country bordering Nigeria in the Gulf of Guinea. Corn, rice and root crops are all important staples in Benin. Cotton is the most important cash crop and is an important source of foreign exchange. Rising food prices led the Government of Benin (GOB) to create the Programme d'Urgence d'Appui a la Sécurité Alimentaire (PUSA) – or, the Program to Support Food Security. PUSA has supported farmer education and provision of credits for producers. The GOB also has a National Office to Support Food Security (ONASA) which manages a food bank of about 3,000 tons of corn that it makes available to suppress localized shortages and price spikes, primarily in the urban area in and around the capital of Cotonou. The price of corn went from 175 CFA to nearly 400 CFA /kg from November 2007 to August 2008.

The 2008/09 campaign began with on-time arrival of rains in mid-March which were very good across the country. While cotton inputs (fertilizer) were reported to have arrived on time, cereal inputs (typically used for corn) were distributed late. As usual, there are isolated dry areas as well as areas that have experienced flooding. In the south, Benin has potential for a second crop of rice and vegetables. One of the largest constraints identified by Benin is post-harvest losses. Preliminary forecasts indicate an increase in production of corn and rice as well as a number of root crops.

Benin Production Table

Benin	2007/08		2008/09		% Change (prod year to year)
Commodity	Area (ha)	Production (tons)	Area (ha)	Preliminary Production (tons)	
Rice	29,122	67,602	-	88,605	
Millet/Sorghum	215,366	176,761	-	168,197	
Corn	735,062	760,683	-	771,457	
Total Cereals		1,007,541	-	1,028,259	+2.1
Other Crops					
Root Crops	418,817	4,500,000 est.	-	4,993,817	
Peanuts	140,328	121,202	-		

Source: Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage et de la Pèche.

Chad

Chad is a land-locked Sahelian country that is part of the Central African region. Chad has endured a tumultuous history, with its most recent coup attempt in 2007 while remaining host to nearly 300,000 refugees from Sudan and the Central African Republic (CAR). On top of challenges posed by climate, geography and civil unrest, food insecurity and food price inflation are very difficult to alleviate in Chad. Since early 2008 the price of millet increased to 300 FCFA/kg from an average of 200 FCFA/kg in previous years. There are major transportation constraints as security forces and other humanitarian programs place competitive demand on transportation needed to distribute food, water, and to transport people and soldiers. Chad is also a major cotton producer which is exported by truck through neighboring Cameroun. Yields for all crops in Chad remain well below regional averages. The National Food Security Agency (PNSA) distributed seeds in May to vulnerable households that were affected by flooding. According to government reports, PNSA distributed 300 tons of seed and FAO distributed 60 tons of seed. The government also provided cereal at subsidized prices to civil servants while WFP remains the main donor distributing food to Sudanian and CAR refugees.

There are two major production regions in Chad – the Sahelian (north) and Sudainian (south). Improved rainfall in 2008 compared to 2007 will increase yields, while a reduction in area in southern Chad (due primarily to flooding) will limit total production gains. The published government data also indicate that there was a large increase in peanut production – this data will need to be verified as there are no indications of external support to the peanut sector that would have increased area or yields.

Chad Production Table

Chad	2007/08		2008/09		% Change (prod year to year)
Commodity	Area (ha)	Production (tons)	Area (ha)	Production (tons)	
Millet	-	495,486	909,054	546,342	
Sorghum	-	576,571	897,723	727,156	
Rice	-	106,379	110,631	113,508	
Corn	-	201,257	214,222	207,367	
Berbere	-	583,950	398,000	339,150	
Wheat	-	8,393	3,000	4,500	
Total Cereals	-	1,972,036	2,532,630	1,976,971	+0.25
Other Crops					
Peanuts		222,276	354,191	468,206	
Cotton*	210,764	158,073	225,110	168,833	+6.8

Source: Direction de la Production et des Statistiques Agricoles (DPSA)
Note : The cotton production numbers are not USDA official estimates.

Cote d'Ivoire

Cote d'Ivoire remains one of the most developed and economically diverse countries in West Africa despite years of civil unrest and political instability since 2002. Elections planned for November 2008 are likely to be delayed as national identification and voter registration efforts continue. Its relatively high GDP and well developed urban areas have influenced consumer behavior towards rice and bread consumption, making Cote d'Ivoire the largest rice importer in Francophone West Africa and one of the largest wheat importers. Subsequently, the country was hit hard by simultaneous inflation affecting both energy and staple food products. The Government of Cote d'Ivoire (GOCI) responded by eliminating or reducing taxes on many imported foods and re-prioritized its national rice program. As part of this program, the government distributed 62 tons of seed. FAO also distributed 228 tons of corn and rice seed as well as 543 tons of fertilizer. WFP also manages a food distribution program for the most vulnerable in Cote d'Ivoire – 3,656 tons were reportedly distributed during the first four months of 2008.

Good rains, especially in the south, where two growing seasons are possible, resulted in an increase in planted area in 2008 compared to 2007. There were also improved supplies of seeds and fertilizers, although the price of the later had increased more than 50 percent. While the GOCI presented no provisional estimates, production of corn and rice is expected to increase 5 to 15 percent as a result of these interventions and good rains. Cote d'Ivoire, like other coastal countries, is also a major producer and consumer of manioc and other roots and tubers – their production was nearly 8 million tons in 2007/08 and is also expected to increase in the range of 5 to 15 percent. Other production notes of interest are that cotton area continues to decline as producers switch to better priced and more reliable food crops. Some of the other cash crops such as coffee, cocoa and cashew are also experiencing difficulty. The coffee and cocoa crops are suffering from virus and disease infestations, and some orchards are being removed due to the loss in yields – attributable ultimately to poor orchard maintenance. It was reported that a poor vaccination campaign in 2007 has lead to high animal mortality rate in north.

Cote d'Ivoire Production Table

Cote d'Ivoire	2007/08	2008 % Change (prod year to year)
Commodity	Production (tons)	
Millet	37,941	+0-5
Sorghum	34,379	+0-5
Rice (Paddy)	606,310	+5-15
Corn	531,940	+5-15
Total Cereals	1,210,570	
Other Crops		
Peanuts	69,256	+5-15
Roots and Tubers	7,968,293	+5-15
Cotton (ginned)	89,940	-

Guinea

Guinea is a coastal country in West Africa with a population of 10 million that borders Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Guinea has a large forest region, as well as a large plateau and is a major agricultural producer of a wide range of crops – from roots and tubers to rice, corn, peanuts, millet and sorghum. Like many countries in the region, rice is an important staple and is one of the most important domestic crops. In 2007/08 Guinea produced approximately 2.4 million tons of cereal, of which 1.4 million tons was rice (paddy). At the time of this report Guinea did not have complete production estimates for all cereals; however rice area and production are forecast to increase by approximately 4 percent.

Guinea Production Table

Guinea	2007/08		2008/09		% Change (prod year to year)
Commodity	Area (ha)	Production (tons)*	Area (ha)	Production (tons)	
Millet	-	120,000	NA	NA	
Sorghum	-	39,000	NA	NA	
Rice	788,771	1,400,000	820,322	1,460,000	+4
Corn	374,723	595,000	NA	NA	
Fonio	208,076	243,000	NA	NA	
Total Cereals	-	2,397,000	NA	NA	
Other Crops					
Peanuts	217,955	316,000	NA	NA	